

DIDDLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr D Hedgley

Clerk: Mrs Jean de Rusett, 12 Church Road, Brampton Bryan, Bucknell, SY7 0DH

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MINUTES

**Of the meeting of Diddlebury Parish Council
held on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7.30pm at Westhope Village Hall.**

025/25– Present

Cllr. D Hedgley - Chairman, Cllr. A Watson, Cllr. S Povall, Cllr. C Martyn, Cllr. T Pardoe,
Cllr. R Morgan, Cllr. R Povall

In attendance - the Clerk, Shropshire Cllr. C Motley, and three members of the public

Apologies: Cllr. T O'Boyle and Cllr. A Rattu

026/25 – Declarations of Interest.

Members were requested to declare any Disclosable Personal or Pecuniary Interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.
No declarations were made.

027/25– Public involvement session,

No matters were raised.

028/25– Approval of the Minutes of the parish council meeting of 26th February 2025

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 26th February 2025 had been circulated to councillors prior to this meeting and publicised on the website. No amendments were requested at the meeting.

Cllr. R. Povall **Proposed** that the Minutes of the meeting on 26th February 2025 be adopted as a correct record of the meeting's business.

Proposal **Seconded** by Cllr. Watson

Vote on Proposal: 6 in support, one abstention.

029/25: Matters arising from the Parish Meeting 26th February 2025 not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

Item 022/25 – Item 10 on Correspondence List of 26th February 2025 – anonymous letter dated 17.02.25 sent to the Clerk accusing her of misleading the public in the Minutes of 27th November 2024 and in the subsequent Corvedale News report by saying DPC's interest in the Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park had been transferred to the Official Custodian of Charities in 2016.

The question of DPC's ownership of part of the car park at the November 2024 meeting was not an agenda item (which could have been researched and a response prepared) but arose in the context of Cllr. S Povall's report on Diddlebury Village Hall matters. Not having had an opportunity to research the issue which had occurred nine years previously, from memory the Clerk mistakenly stated that ownership had been transferred to the Official Custodian of Trustees. Her statement was not corrected by any of the councillors present who had been involved with the matter nine years previously, as they too all believed at the time that the information was correct. It has subsequently been established that it was DPC's interest in the village hall itself which had been transferred to the Official Custodian, which transfer had not included the small area of the car park.

008/25/2: Cllr. Wason reported that residents of the Moors and Moors View had received a letter from Severn Trent Water advising that the proposed works to the new pipeline have been suspended. Cllr. Watson believed this was because they had to obtain an ecology report prior to carrying out the works.

021/25: The Chairman and Cllr. Watson advised the Westhope residents to bombard FixMyStreet with requests for the resurfacing of the road between Westhope College and Hillside. The Chairman also noted that many roads in the parish are again suffering from potholes.

030/25- Reports

030/25/1 – Chairman's Report. The Chairman reported that he had sent a card with condolences on behalf of the Parish Council to the family of former councillor Mervyn Thomas. He will be representing the parish council at Mervyn's funeral on 29th March.

030/25/2 – Corvedale Division Cllr. Motley's report. Cllr. Motley reported that SC's Cabinet had recommended that town and parish councils should collaborate on flood alleviation measures. She had advised Cabinet that the Corvedale parishes had been jointly tackling flood issues for many years. The Boundaries Review had led to the halt of the Community Governance Review, where parishes were encouraged to iron out boundary issues or even to amalgamate with adjoining parishes. Cllr. Motley believes the Review should resume and cited an example: Stanton Lacy has an issue about Sutton Hill being in Diddlebury rather than in Stanton Lacy. She suggested who ever replaces her should be tackled on the subject of the Review. So far Dr Colin Standford of Middlehope (Conservative) and Clair Braithwaite (Reform) have declared their nominations and there may well be other candidates by the close date 2nd April. Another issue to be aware of is the government's scheme to create large councils headed by a mayor, by amalgamating councils to produce unitary councils with a population of 500,000. Shropshire has not yet been subjected to participating in the scheme as it is already a unitary council. Other than possibly Staffordshire there is no obvious council for SC to amalgamate with as Telford, Herefordshire and Worcestershire do not want to amalgamate with a large county with a small mostly rural population, such as Shropshire has.

030/25/3: Westhope Village Hall Report. Mrs Worthington reported that the recent rummage sale had been successful. Community Lunches are starting shortly and are open to everyone. VE Day will be celebrated on the 9th May including a curry night. The heating system at the hall is not working and they are having difficulty finding an electrician to sort it out. The Chairman reminded Mrs Worthington that if the WVH Committee wrote to DPC asking for financial assistance with the maintenance of their defibrillator, the council would consider the request.

030/25/4 – Flood Action Group Report. Cllr. Martyn reported that using his GPS he had walked the length of the Diddlebrook checking on the leaky dams: Shropshire Wildlife Trust had supplied him with a map of their locations, As the water level was low he was able to have a good look at them, He found that at least half of the leaky dams are damaged or missing. He reported his findings back to Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

031/25– Planning application

25/00743/VAR application for the variation of Condition No. 2 relating to planning permission 24/03617/LBC at The Green Farm, Middlehope, SY7 9JT.

The Applicants attended and explained to councillors why they wished to modify the permission given last year. Once work started the builders had pointed out the plumbing was in the wrong place for the proposed bathroom and rearranging the plans meant a dormer window could be installed in preference to a Velux window. Councillors considered the application. Cllr. R. Povall **proposed** that the parish council should strongly support the application for the variation.

Cllr. Morgan **seconded** the proposal.

Vote: Councillors voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

032/25– Consideration of highways and environmental matters

No highways or environmental issues were raised.

033/25 – Consideration of correspondence and communications

1. Planning decision from Shropshire Council re 25/00230/OHL – application for replacement of 9.5m pole with an 11m pole at Moorwood Farm, Lower Dinchope. Permission granted.
2. Bundle of emails and photographs re damaged gate on southern end of the footpath/bridleway 0525/24/2 near Pinstones Farm. Reported by resident, to be checked by Footpaths Group and checked by Cllr. Martyn. Discussion needed re action to be taken.
3. Confirmation from DVH bookings officer of DPC ‘s hire dates for 2025 to May 2026.
4. Confirmation from WVH re booking of DPC’s hire dates for 2025 to May 2026
5. Email from Cllr. Martyn with concerns about new concrete forecourt at Motte Farm, Middlehope, which has no way to capture to water run-off. The concrete yard slopes straight on to the road with no drains.
6. Email Clerk to councillors with information re forthcoming elections and advising of her arrangements to deliver nomination packs to all councillors intending to stand for election.
7. Emails between Clerk and Mrs Betty Manley re a grant request for WVH. WVH need further information/quotes before being in a position to submit a full application.
8. Emails between Clerk and Laura Howells, Communications & Engagement Officer, Shropshire Highways concerning the poor state of the road between Westhope

College and Hillside. Ms Howells advises the works are being considered along with other unclassified roads for the future resurfacing programme.

9. Notification from the SC Animal Health Team that Avian influenza is still being detected in the wild bird population and thus restrictions on poultry remain in force.
10. Email to Connexus confirming DPC is satisfied with the proposed redevelopment scheme of 3 & 4 Mill Lane, Diddlebury.

Responses

Item 2: Cllr. S Povall believes a contractor working for him may have damaged the gate. He will ensure the gate is repaired or replaced.

Item 5: Cllr. Martyn, whilst delivering copies of the Corvedale News, had noticed that a large sloping concrete apron had been laid from a farm building right up to the road at Motte Farm, Middlehope. It appears any water would run directly from the concrete apron onto the highway, and it is not clear if drains have been fitted as normally required to capture the water run-off, which could then be channelled away. It was agreed DPC shall write to the owner of Motte Farm querying this issue.

034/25 - Finance Report for March 2025

Precept Balance b/fwd from February 2025 **£5,119.92**

1. LESS: cheques/direct debits to be drawn on Precept Funds on 26th March 2025

1. HSBC bank charges to 26.02.25	£ 6.20	
2. Clerk's net salary for March 2025	£273.67	
3. PAYE on Clerk's March 2025 salary	£ 20.80	
4. Chairman's expenses (ink cartridge)	£ 34.55	
5. Diddlebury Village Hall: Hire April 2024 – Feb.2025	£156.00	
6. Westhope Village Hall: Hire June/Sept. 2024 & March 2025	£ 75.00	
7. <u>Administrative expenses incurred by DPC and paid by the Clerk in March 2025</u>		
• March 2025 contribution to telephone & Broadband provision at £20 p.m	£20.00	
• 1 x pkt A4 copy paper	£ 8.99	
• 2 pkts of Badger Ink cartridges	£18.98	
• Travel expenses at 45p per mile		
06.03.25 – travelling around parish to deliver Election Nomination packs – 36 miles		
26.03.25 to Westhope Village Hall for PC meeting – 32 miles: Total 68 miles	<u>£30.60</u>	
Total of March 2025 expenses	<u>£78.57</u>	<u>£ 78.57</u>
		<u>£644.79</u>
Balance of Precept Funds carried forward to April 2025		£ 644.79 £4,475.13

Cllr. Watson **proposed** that the cheques & DD's listed and totalling £644.79 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr R Povall

Vote: Six in favour, one abstention, carried by a majority.

Ring fenced, reserves and third-party funds held by Diddlebury Parish Council

CIL/Neighbourhood Funds bal. b/fwd from February 2025	£2,198.05
Environmental & asset maintenance fund , bal. b/fwd from Feb. 2025	£ 530.82
Legal expenses ring fenced funds – bal. b/fwd from February 2025	£ 750.00
Diddlebury Village Hall Car Park maintenance reserve funds , bal. b/fwd	£3,500.00
Reserves fund for SC elections , bal. b/fwd from February 2025	£ 457.73
<u>Third Party Funds</u>	
Corvedale Walking & Footpath Group funds.	
bal. b/fwd from February - 2025	£700.00
ADD: Grant from Shropshire Council 21.02.25	£150.00
	<u>£850.00</u>
Flood Action Group funds , bal. b/fwd from February 2025	£ 228.46
Ring fenced fund for WWI Information Board Minute Ref. 235/23	£ 300.00
Total of funds	<u>£8,815.06</u>

Balance held by DPC following authorisation of payment of cheques listed

Precept Funds	£4,475.13
Ring fenced and third party funds	<u>£8,815.06</u>
Total funds	£13,290.19

2. DPC's Cash Book was reconciled by Cllr. Watson with HSBC Bank Statement No. 391 and found to be correct.

035/25 – To consider and deal with matters relating to the 2024/2025 Audit including:

The up-dated Register of Assets was considered by the councillors as was the up-dated Strategic Risk Assessment.

Cllr. R Povall **proposed** that both documents be approved and adopted by the parish council. Proposal **seconded** by the Chairman

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations cannot be revised until the April meeting as they about to be revised and updated by NALC.

036/25 – Proposal to appoint Mrs Jennie Griffiths as internal auditor of the parish council's accounts and procedures for the financial year ended 31.03.25

The Chairman **proposed** that Mrs Jennie Griffiths be appointed as DPC's internal auditor for the financial year ended 31.03.25

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Martyn

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

037/25 - Any Other Business (for the dissemination of information only)

037/25/1: The Clerk advised she had received no requests for donations as yet: these are normally awarded at the April meeting.

037/25/2: The Chairman wondered whether those proposing to stand for election at the 1st May elections could put short resumes about themselves and their reasons for wishing to stand as a parish councillor on the Googlegroup. He will raise the issue with Martin.

037/25/3: Cllr. Martyn noted that the Bache Mill community has no notice board and asked that the parish council provides one. The issue was discussed and it was agreed that the community should have a board. Cllr. Pardoe was asked to produce a quotation for a wooden notice board as he had produced some others for the parish. It was also agreed that quotations be obtained for notice boards made from materials other than wood. This matter will be an agenda item at April's meeting.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd April 2025
7.30pm at Diddlebury Village Hall

Minutes signed by: _____

Dated: _____